

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 04976 231015Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----050776 231019Z /20

O R 230935Z JUL 77 ZFF-3  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1679  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

S E C R E T BELGRADE 4976

EXDIS

NEW DELHI/BANGKOK FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US  
SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: A) BELGRADE 4930; B) STATE 168864

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, FONSEC MINIC ACCEPTED DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO SEND A U.S. TEAM TO YUGOSLAVIA "ON URGENT BASIS" TO DISCUSS WITH GOY HOW TO HANDLE DISPOSITION OF OBSOLETE US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. MINIC STATED (AND NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE ACTING CHIEF CRNJAK EMPHASIZED LATER) GOY PREFERENCE TO SETTLE THE MATTER BEFORE THE KARDELJ VISIT TO WASHINGTON. YUGOSLAVS VIEW KARDELJ VISIT AS A MAJOR EVENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DO NOT WISH HIS TALKS BURDENED WITH THIS ISSUE.

2. WE ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT A TEAM BE CONSTITUTED AND SENT HERE ASAP. IN THIS REGARD, WE SHOULD ESTABLISH PRECISE TERMS OF  
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REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE TALKS, MAINLY TO FORESTALL ANY GOY ATTEMPT AND TO USE THEM TO ABROGATE THE AGREEMENTS. WE SHOULD OFFER THE TOR TO THE GOY FOR COMMENT BEFORE TEAM ARRIVES, BUT WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AGREEMENTS MUST REMAIN IN FORCE. WHILE GOY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN INFORMAL CRACK AT TOR SO THAT WE ARE ALL PLAYING OFF SAME SHEET OF MUSIC, WE SHOULD AVOID A PROTRACTED NEGOTIATION ON IT.

3. THE TOR SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS:

A) THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE US AND YUGOSLAV TEAMS IS TO SEEK WAYS, WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE US TO YUGOSLAVIA UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS AND NOW EXCESS TO YUGOSLAV NEEDS.

B) SPECIFICALLY THE TEAMS WILL:

1) SEEK AN ACCOUNTING FOR EQUIPMENT ALREADY SCRAPPED:

2) ESTABLISH A CLEARANCE AND AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR ITEMS THE GOY WOULD LIKE TO SCRAP;

3) DEVELOP PROCEDURES TO HANDLE YUGOSLAV REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT TO THE US AND TO THIRD PARTIES.

C) THE TEAMS HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO GO BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE AGREEMENTS OR TO CONSIDER ABROGATION OF THE AGREEMENTS.

4. THE HEAD OF THE U.S. TEAM MUST BE A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE, EXPERIENCED OFFICIAL WHO WOULD ADHERE STRICTLY TO WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY GUIDANCE. AN EMBASSY OFFICER FROM THE POLITICAL SECTION SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE TEAM; THE DAO SHOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE.

5. WE URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE RAPIDLY SO THAT WE MAY REMOVE THIS ISSUE AS A BONE OF CONTENTION IN OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

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6. STATE'S 172368 ARRIVED AFTER ABOVE DRAFTED. EMBASSY APPRECIATES QUICK RESPONSE AND WILL RAISE PROPOSAL THAT TEAM ARRIVE MID-AUGUST IN MEETING AMBASSADOR ALREADY HAS SCHEDULED WITH BERNARDIC ON MONDAY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE TOR ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN PARA. 3, ABOVE, WOULD BE A USEFUL DEVICE AND RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE US TO PRESENT SAME TO GOY FOR ITS INFORMAL COMMENTS.  
EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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